

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 05583 202013Z

61

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

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AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, GR, ETRD, PFOR

SUBJECT: GREECE'S APPLICATION FOR EC MEMBERSHIP: NEXT STEPS

1. SUMMARY: THE NEXT STEP IN EC HANDLING OF THE GREEK APPLICATION FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP WILL TAKE PLACE ON JUNE 24 WHEN THE EC COUNCIL IS EXPECTED TO CALL FOR THE OPINION OF THE EC COMMISSION AS REQUIRED BY THE TREATY OF ROME. COMMISSION SOURCES THINK THIS STUDY OF THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF GREEK MEMBERSHIP WILL NOT BE READY BEFORE EARLY IN 1976. END SUMMARY.

2. THE EC COMMISSION IS HOPEFUL THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL ON JUNE 24 WILL ADDRESS ITSELF TO THE GREEK APPLICATION FOR EC MEMBERSHIP AND REFER IT TO THE COMMISSION FOR AN OPINION AS REQUIRED BY ARTICLE 237 OF THE TREATY OF ROME. (ARTICLE 237 STATES: "ANY EUROPEAN STATE MAY APPLY TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY. IT SHALL ADDRESS ITS APPLICATION TO THE COUNCIL, WHICH SHALL ACT UNANIMOUSLY AFTER OBTAINING THE OPINION OF THE COMMISSION").

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PAGE 02 EC BRU 05583 202013Z

3. THE COMMISSION'S GREEK DESK OFFICER, MISIR,

ANTICIPATES THAT THE COMMISSION STUDY OF THE GREEK APPLICATION WILL BE IN GREAT DEPTH, SIMILAR TO THOSE UNDERTAKEN AT THE TIME OF THE UK, DANISH AND IRISH APPLICATIONS. HE WAS UNWILLING TO GUESS AS TO WHEN IT MIGHT BE COMPLETED BUT SPEAKING PRIVATELY HE SAID FULL MEMBERSHIP MIGHT NOT COME BEFORE THE 1984 TARGET DATE IN THE GREEK/EC ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT.

4. COMMISSION DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS DEKERGORLAY GAVE US A MORE OPTIMISTIC READING ALTHOUGH HE SAID HE DID NOT YET HAVE THE BENEFIT OF THE THOUGHTS OF THE EC COMMISSIONERS. DEKERGORLAY ANTICIPATES THAT THE COMMISSION'S OPINION WILL BE READY FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION EARLY IN 1976, AND SAID HE WAS PERSONALLY CERTAIN THAT GREEK MEMBERSHIP WOULD COME ABOUT WELL BEFORE THE 1984 TARGET DATE. DEKERGORLAY SAID HE EXPECTS THAT WHEN THE COMMISSION'S OPINION EMERGES IT WILL DEAL BOTH WITH THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF GREEK MEMBERSHIP, INCLUDING GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS, AND WITH THE STATE OF THE GREEK ECONOMY AND THE PROBLEMS POSED BY TRANSITION TO FULL MEMBERSHIP. GREENWALD

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